

CLAIMS

1. A navigation device comprising:

a data storage section for storing map data;

a destination designating section for designating a
5 destination;

a position deriving section for deriving a current position
of a user;

a route receiving section for receiving route data
representing a route from the current position derived by the
10 position deriving section to the destination designated by the
destination designating section, by means of the map data stored
in the data storage section;

a data selecting section for selecting a candidate location
data indicating at least one location which exists on the route
15 represented by the route data or in a vicinity of the route, and
satisfies a predetermined condition, based on the route data
received by the route receiving section and the map data stored
in the data storage section;

a location-change designating section for designating a
20 location of change at which a guiding method is to be changed,
based on the candidate location data selected by the data selecting
section;

a determination section for determining whether the user
has reached the location of change, based on the current position
25 derived by the position deriving section and the location of change

designated by the location-change designating section; and

5 a navigation guidance section for guiding the user to the destination with a relatively detailed method, when the determination section determines that the user has arrived at the location of change.

2. The navigation device according to claim 1, wherein the data selecting section selects, on the route represented by the route data, candidate location data indicating at least one
10 location existing within a section having a predetermined distance extending from the current position derived by the position deriving section in the direction of the destination designated by the destination designating section.

15 3. The navigation device according to claim 1, wherein the location-change designating section includes an output section for outputting a location indicated by the candidate location data selected by the data selecting section, and a location-change selecting section for selecting one location of
20 change based on a designation from the user.

4. The navigation device according to claim 3, wherein the location-change designating section further includes a priority assigning section for assigning a priority to the location
25 indicated by the candidate location data selected by the data

selecting section and,

the output section outputs the location indicated by the candidate location data selected by the data selecting section in accordance with the priority assigned by the priority assigning
5 section.

5. The navigation device according to claim 1, wherein when the determination section determines that the user has arrived at the location of change, the navigation guidance section
10 automatically changes a guiding method to a relatively detailed method.

6. The navigation device according to claim 1, wherein the navigation guidance section guides the user to the destination
15 by voice.

7. The navigation device according to claim 1, wherein the navigation guidance section performs no process of the navigation guidance while the determination section determines
20 that the user has not yet arrived at the location of change.

8. The navigation device according to claim 1, wherein the data selecting section selects the candidate location data immediately after the route receiving section generates the route
25 data.

9. A guiding method executed by a navigation device, the method comprising:

a destination designating step of designating a destination;

5 a position deriving step of deriving a current position of a user;

a route receiving step of receiving route data representing a route from the current position derived by the position deriving step to the destination designated by the destination designating step, by means of map data stored in the navigation device;

10 a data selecting step of selecting candidate location data indicating at least one location which exists on the route represented by the route data or in a vicinity of the route, and satisfies a predetermined condition, based on the route data received by the route receiving step and the map data stored in the navigation device;

a location-change designating step of designating a location of change at which a guiding method is to be changed, based on the candidate location data selected by the data selecting step;

20 a determination step of determining whether the user has reached the location of change, based on the current position derived by the position deriving step and the location of change designated by the location-change designating step; and

a navigation guidance step of guiding the user to the destination with a relatively detailed method when the

determination step determines that the user has arrived at the location of change.

10. A computer program to be executed by a navigation device
5 for guiding a user to a destination, the computer program comprising:

a destination designating step of designating a destination;

a position deriving step of deriving a current position of
a user;

10 a route receiving step of receiving route data representing
a route from the current position derived by the position deriving
step to the destination designated by the destination designating
step, by means of map data stored in the navigation device;

a data selecting step of selecting candidate location data
15 indicating at least one location which exists on the route
represented by the route data or in a vicinity of the route, and
satisfies a predetermined condition, based on the route data
received by the route receiving step and the map data stored in
the navigation device;

20 a location-change designating step of designating a location
of change at which a guiding method is to be changed, based on
the candidate location data selected by the data selecting step;

a determination step of determining whether the user has
reached the location of change, based on the current position
25 derived by the position deriving step and the location of change

designated by the location-change designating step; and

a navigation guidance step of guiding the user to the destination with a relatively detailed method when the determination step determines that the user has arrived at the
5 location of change.

11. The computer program according to claim 10, recorded on a storage medium.